[9th January 1954

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Since Ayurvedic science has been developed in Malabar so far as this State is concerned and since there is acute deficiency in medical facilities, would the Government consider the establishment of Ayurvedic hospitals in various places in the villages of the district of Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I am not sure that Ayurvedic science has developed in Malabar. It is only surviving there. There are a large number of Ayurvedic dispensaries in every district and so also in Malabar."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister for Health is aware that after the opening of the dispensary at Karivallur, for ten months there was no medicine in the dispensary and that the people who visited the dispensary had to return without medicines? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" This is a matter for the District Board."

Import of ' Songu Cholam ' from Australia.

* 393 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many persons were affected by consuming ' Songu Cholam ' imported from Australia which was found to contain ' Dhatura ' seeds on examination;

(*b*) what was the nature of the injurious effect produced by eating it and how it happened that such stuff was allowed to be marketed;

(*c*) what measures were taken by the Government following the report of the Government Analyst; and

(*d*) what was done with the remaining stock of the cholam that was withdrawn from the market?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Sixty-eight persons were affected.

" (*b*) (i) The injurious effects produced by eating the Sorghum were giddiness, losing consciousness, symptoms of delirium in some cases, and in some other cases the affected people turned turbulent and appeared mentally deranged.

(ii) Two allotments of Australian Sorghum ex S.S. " Nordvest " and S.S. " Franta " were made by the Government of India under the basic plan, just as milo from other foreign countries or jowar from other States. There were no special or peculiar circumstances which led to the import of these stocks and they were distributed in the usual manner.

" (*c*) Telegraphic instructions were issued to the Collectors concerned to stop issues pending further orders. Detailed

instructions regarding the cleaning of sorghum stocks contaminated with dhatura seeds were also issued. The stocks are being cleaned now, and for this purpose the Government have sanctioned a special staff.

" (*d*) The stocks of sorghum withdrawn from the market are being cleaned, and in most of the districts the cleaning work is in progress."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that allotments of Australian sorghum were made to other States also and that no injurious effects were produced by eating the sorghum there and whether they were noticed in this State only and the reasons therefor?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am not aware of the fact whether there were any injurious effects noticed in other States. Anyhow I shall try to get the information."

SRI C. KANDASAMY :—" இதுபற்றி ஆஸ்திரேலிய அரசாங்கத்திற்கு தெரிவித்து, அதுபற்றி ஏதாவது பதில் கேட்கப்பட்டதா?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir. The matter has been taken up with the Australian Government and we have not yet received the reply."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister the amount of loss incurred by the Government on account of destroying the balance of sorghum left with the Government?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No stock was destroyed. It was only cleaned, and of course in that way we have incurred some loss and I do not have now the actual figures of loss incurred in this connection."

SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :—" May I know whether any death was reported as a result of taking the Australian sorghum and whether the Government have paid any compensation to the families of the deceased?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Only in Ramanathapuram district one child succumbed to the effects of this poisoning and no other case of death has been reported to the Government."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" May I know whether the Government can say whether dhatura seeds were mixed or whether dhatura in powder form was mixed with the sorghum stocks, whether it was mixed in Australia or whether it was mixed after it was imported and whether the mixing of dhatura was discovered before the sorghum stock was sent to Chemical Examiner for analysis or whether it was discovered after it was sent for chemical analysis? May I also know why the Government did not take steps to examine the sorghum stocks before it was released to the public for consumption?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Since these dhatura seeds were found even in unopened stocks, our inference is that the mixing of the dhatura seeds was done in Australia and we have taken up this matter with the Australian Government."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" The Hon. Minister for Food while answering questions referred ' Songu Cholam ' as ' Sorghum '. May I know whether it is called so because it helps the consumer during the period of giddiness to realise the dream of attaining ' the much coveted swargam '? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The word ' swargam ' and the word ' cholam ' are intimately connected."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know whether the Government examine the foodstuffs imported from foreign countries as to whether they are injurious or not before releasing them for public consumption? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This is the only instance we have come across. Certainly we will be more careful in future."

Sri Balakrishna Lalji temple, Kozhikode.

* 394 *Q.*—SRI A. APPU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments be pleased to state whether any complaint has been received from Kozhikode that Sri Balakrishna Lalji Temple has not been thrown open to Harijans; and if so, what action has been taken by the Government and when the complaint was received?

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" In November 1948, a complaint was received from the Secretary of the Malabar Harijan Sevak Sangh that Sri Balakrishna Laljee Temple, Kozhikode, had not been thrown open to Harijans. It is the subject-matter of a suit in the High Court, Madras, by the trustee of the temple."

MR. SPEAKER :—" As the matter is said to be *sub judice* I pass on to the next question."

Extension of the Kattiampalli-Pavannur road to Irikkoor.

* 395 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) the reasons for dropping the original plan of extending the Kattiampalli-Pavannur road to Irikkoor via Chedicherry; and

(*b*) whether the Government have any scheme to repair the abovementioned road?